United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410
Date: June 9, 2004

Holliday Obrecht III
Patuxent Research Refuge
USDI-NPS
12100 Beech Forest Road
Laurel, MD 20708

Dear Mr.Obrecht:

Emerald ash borer (EAB) (Buprestidae: *Agrilus planipnnis*) is an exotic pest of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). The native distribution of EAB is in Asia and includes Korea, Japan, Mongolia, several provinces of China, a small portion of Russia and Taiwan. EAB was discovered in the United States in July 2002 in southeastern Michigan. By the end of 2003, EAB was found in 11 counties in Michigan, in five Ohio counties, and in Fairfax County, Virginia and Prince George County, Maryland. The spread of the EAB has been primarily by the transportation of infested nursery stock, ash logs, and firewood.

The larvae of the EAB feed in the phloem and the outer sapwood creating galleries that eventually kill the trees. It is estimated that more than 5 million ash trees are dead or dying from this pest. EAB has the potential to become a major forest pest of ash in the eastern United States.

Enclosed you will find copies of the Emerald Ash Borer Pest Alert that describes the insect and the type of damage it causes. If your office would like more copies of this Pest Alert please call Helen Wassick at 304-285-1527, or visit the following website: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.pdf. Also enclosed is a copy of the EAB survey protocols that our office is implementing at some of our federal sites. Listed throughout the survey protocols are several websites that can provide additional information.

We will be conducting EAB surveys at various Federal Lands in the Ohio, northwestern Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C./southern Maryland areas. We will contact your office if your site has been selected to be included in our survey.

Through awareness and early detection the impact of any new infestations can be minimized. If you find dead or dying ash that you suspect may be infested with EAB, please call Karen Felton at 304-285-1556.

For your information, we have also included a brochure describing the Morgantown Field Office, Forest Health Protection staff responsibilities and activities. If we can be of any other assistance, please call Dan Twardus of our office at 304-285-1545.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative MFO

Cc: Noel Schneeberger, AO